

DOCKET: CU-4066

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Jean-Jacques MONNERET

TITLE: GRATE FOR CLOSING A DRAIN AND SIMILAR

AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) Grate intended to be mounted in a frame (7) to close a drain or similar opening and comprising interlaced grids (2, 3), at least one of the grids (2) of the grate (4) being elastically deformable with respect to the other grids (2) and ~~comprising~~ including a pin (8) that can be locked to the frame (7) so that the grate (4) will be elastically fixed in the frame (7), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the elastically deformable grid is an internal grid (2) of the grate (4) and by at a free end ~~comprising of the grate~~ the locking pin (8) ~~that~~ is located below a solid external edge (9) of the grate and ~~extending~~ extends transversally to the elastically deformable grid (2) in such a way that the pin (8) will be protected, ~~on one hand,~~ and ~~on the other,~~ practically invisible from the outside in the installed position of the grate (4) in the frame (7).
2. (currently amended) Grate according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ further comprising a second elastically deformable internal grid (2) having at its a free end of the second elastically deformable internal grid a locking pin (8) that can be locked to the frame (7) and ~~that~~ which is located below another solid external edge (9) of the grate, opposite to the solid external edge (9) for protecting the pin (8) of the first internal grid (8) and extending transversally to the second elastically deformable grid (2) in such a way as to make it possible for the grate (4) to be fastened elastically in the frame (7) independently of the relative orientation.
3. (currently amended) Grate according to Claim 2, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising a sheet of parallel grids (2) comprising the two internal elastically deformable grids (2) and the transverse grids (2) and ~~in that~~ wherein each locking pin (8) is an extension of the corresponding internal grid (2) and offset toward ~~the~~ a bottom with respect to the external surface of this grid so that it can be arranged under the corresponding solid external edge (9) of the grate (4) and of which ~~the~~ an external surface of the locking pins is in the same plane as that of the internal grid (2).
4. (currently amended) Grate according to ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~

~~characterized in that each~~ Claim 1, wherein the locking pin (8) engages elastically with force into a part with the shape of a locking hook (10) that is attached to the an internal face of the corresponding lateral wall of the frame (7) and located close to one corner of this the corresponding lateral wall of frame.

5. (currently amended) Grate according to Claim 4, ~~characterized in that each~~ wherein the locking pin (8) comprises a curved guiding ramp (8a) elongated by a free end with rounded pin (8b) engaging into the part with the shape of a locking hook (10) at the free end (10a) that is also rounded and allowing an elastic unlocking of the pin (8) from the part with the shape of a hook (10) at the time of removal of the grate (4) from the frame (7) to maintain its open position.

6. (currently amended) Grate according to ~~one of Claims 2 to 5, characterized in that it~~ Claim 2, wherein the grate can be extracted from the frame (7) on one side or on the opposite side by introduction of a tool (12), ~~such as a crowbar,~~ into the space exiting between the frame (7) and the external grid (2) of the grate adjacent to the internal elastically deformable grid (2) and exercising below the external grid (2) a force for lifting and unlocking the grate (4).

7. (currently amended) Grate according to ~~one of Claims 4 to 6, characterized in that~~ comprises Claim 4, further comprising four support feet (13) located at the four corners of the grate (4), respectively, and each is maintained in contact on the seating surface (14) located in one corner of the frame (7) by a locking force exercised by the two parts with the shape of a hook (10) on the two locking pins (8).

8. (currently amended) Grate according to ~~one of Claims 2 to 7, characterized in that~~ Claim 2, wherein once unlocked from one side or the other, ~~it~~ the grate can pivot by its opposite side relative to the frame (7) until it is held in the frame at an angular open position of around 120°.

9. (currently amended) Grate according to ~~Claims 8, when considered in combination with Claim 7, characterized in that it~~ Claim 8, wherein the grate is retained in the frame (7) in its open position by two of the support feet (13) located on the same side and blocked in contact on two upright walls (10, 17), respectively of the frame (7) and of which one is made up by a part with the shape of a locking hook (10).

10. (currently amended) Grate according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it~~ Claim 1, wherein the grate can be directly and completely removed from the frame (7) after unlocking of the locking pin (8).

11. (currently amended) Grate according to ~~one of Claims 2 to 10, characterized in~~

that Claim 2, wherein the locking pins (8) are essentially diagonally opposed.

12. (currently amended) Grate according to ~~one of Claims 3 to 11, characterized in that~~ Claim 3, wherein the parallel grids (2) and the transverse grids (3) on one side of the grate (1) define parallel openings (4) for passage of flowing water and on the other side, define the transverse openings (5) for passage of flowing water, and the grate (1) is fixed in a frame (7) in such a way that the parallel openings (4) will be arranged on the a sidewalk side and the transverse openings (5) will be arranged on the a roadway side, independently of the direction of fastening of the frame (7) in the a roadway.